GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4074
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
Village Public Telephone
Giluwa Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility has been provided to the villages which do not have telephone facility;

(b) if so, the details of villages provided with VPT so far, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to facilitate remaining villages with VPTs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has provided 5,82,482 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) out of 5,93,601 villages as per census 2001 as on 30.06.2016. 8521 villages have been found non feasible due to various reasons such as thick forest, no inhabitation, submergence with urban areas and security concerns etc.. The state / circle wise status of villages that have been provided with VPTs as on 30.06.2016 are at Annexure-I.

(c) The VPT scheme was started in 2003 when the penetration of mobile telephony was low. It has now lost much of its relevance due to widespread use of mobile phone even in rural areas. 5,41,939 villages out of total 5,97,608 villages in the country as per census 2011 are already covered with mobile services, leaving only 55,669 villages, i.e., 9.31%, without coverage. (State-wise details of uncovered villages are at Annexure-II). Mobile coverage to these uncovered villages is likely to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources. Government has prioritised provision of mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected area, North Eastern States, Islands and Himalayan States (Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) in the first phase.

Annexure-I

Status of State/Circle wise villages provisioned with VPT facility,
as per census 2001 as on 30.06.2016
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S.N. Name of
Circle
No. of Inhabited Villages No. of villages which have been covered with VPT facility
1 Andaman & Nicobar Islands 501 352
2 Andhra Pradesh 26613 25107
3 Assam 25124 24692
4 Bihar 39032 38941
5 Jharkhand 29354 28821
6 Gujarat 18159 18054
7 Haryana 6764 6678
8 Himachal Pradesh 17495 17408
9 Jammu & Kashmir 6417 6385
10 Karnataka 27481 27451
11 Kerala 1372 1372
12 Madhya Pradesh 52117 51986
13 Chhattisgarh 19744 18328
14 Maharashtra 41442 40654
15 NE-I 7347 6862
16 NE-II 7456 6247
17 Odisha 47529 45215
18 Punjab 12301 12065
19 Rajasthan 39753 39568
20 Tamil Nadu 154928 15492
21 Uttar Pradesh (East) 74161 74145
22 Uttar Pradesh (West) 23781 23707
23 Uttarakhand 15761 15381

24 West Bengal including Sikkim 38405 37571
Total 5,93,601 5,82,482

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*North East-I -Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura
**North East-II-Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Nagaland

Annexure-II

State-wise list of Uncovered Villages (as per census 2011)
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Sr.No. Name of the State/UT Total number of inhabited villages No. of Uncovered Villages
1. Andhra Pradesh 16335 3812
2. Arunachal Pradesh 5258 2886
3. Assam 25372 2885
4. Bihar 39073 2534
5. Chhattisgarh 19567 4041
6. Goa 320 65
7. Gujarat 17843 1275
8. Haryana 6642 2
9. Himachal Pradesh 17882 2416
10. Jammu & Kashmir 6337 460
11. Jharkhand 29492 5949
12. Karnataka 27397 0
13. Kerala 1017 0
14. Madhya Pradesh 51929 5926
15. Maharashtra 40959 4792
16. Manipur 2515 610
17. Meghalaya 6459 2389
18. Mizoram 704 258
19. Nagaland 1400 137
20. Odisha 47675 10398
21. Punjab 12168 91
22. Rajasthan 43264 770
23. Sikkim 425 23
24. Tamil Nadu 15049 113
25. Telangana 10347 1009
26. Tripura 863 2
27. Uttar Pradesh 97814 266
28. Uttarakhand 15745 1876
29. West Bengal 37469 487
30. Andaman & Nicobar 684 190
31. Puducherry 0
32. Dadra & Nagar Haveli 5
33. Daman & Diu 1
34. Lakshadweep 1
TOTAL 5,97,608 55,669

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